WEEKLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

October 5, 2007

Employment in Alberta rose by 4,600 in September, bringing year-to-date job growth to 5.1 per cent - the strongest among provinces. With more people entering the labour force, Alberta's unemployment rate inched up to 3.6%.

The national unemployment rate fell to 5.9% in September, the lowest level since November 1974, as employment rose by 51,000.

Alberta's average hourly wages grew by 6.0% in September, while national hourly wages increased by 4.2%.

The U.S. economy added 110,000 jobs in September, in line with expectations. Due to substantial data revisions, the previously reported job decline for August was erased, with a gain of 89,000 jobs now being reported for that month.

Despite a weaker U.S. economy, the Canada's economy continues to surge ahead. National building permits rose 1.4% in August, with strong performances in both residential and non-residential sectors.

Alberta's construction sector continued to moderate from historical highs in August, with building permits decreasing 6.0%. Residential permits fell by 4.1%. Also, non-residential permits declined by 9.0% due to a significant drop in institutional permits.

Cdn Dollar (US¢/CS)

October 5, 2007	101.9
September 28, 2007	100.4
2007-08 YTD	93.7

WTI Oil US$/bbl

October 4, 2007	$ 81.44
September 28, 2007	$ 82.88
2007-08 YTD	$ 70.40

Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu *
October Contract

October 5, 2007	$ 7.26
September 28, 2007	$ 6.91

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Despite the decline in August, permits in Alberta were up 22.6% through the first eight months of 2007.

Statistics Canada reported that Alberta barley production is expected to rise by 26.4% in 2007 from its 2006 level, while wheat (-15.5%) and canola (-10%) are expected to report production declines. Due to tight world supplies, grain and oilseed prices have been at their highest levels since 2004.

After dipping from the previous week, oil prices rebounded to above $81 on Thursday, amid concerns regarding the supply of heating oil.

The Canadian dollar soared to a 31-year high of 101.9 US cents today, following the release of the robust Canadian employment report.

Economic Indicators Released this Week	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (M/M)	Month/Previous Year's Month (Y/Y)	Year-to-date[1]
Employment (000s)	**September**			
Alberta	1,973	0.2%	4.8%	5.1%
Canada	16,923	0.3%	2.5%	2.2%
United States	138,265	0.1%	1.2%	1.4%
Rigs Drilling				
Alberta	226	-3.5%	-28.9%	-36.3%
Building Permits ($ Millions)	**August**			
Alberta	1,304	-6.0%	3.8%	22.6%
Canada	6,291	1.4%	6.2%	15.9%

Source: Statistics Canada [1]Year-to-date 2007 compared to the same period in 2006.